

New Testament Greek Syntax

The Nominative Case

Functions as the subject of a finite verb indicating who or what produced the action.

1. Dependent Nominative

A nominative substantive functioning in relation to a finite verb

i] Subject Nominative

A substantive in the nominative case that is the subject of a finite verb.

THE REST were hardened

οἱ λοιποὶ ἐπωροῦσαν

ii] Predicate Nominative

A substantive in the nominative case that is the object of a linking verb to the subject

The linking verbs express a state of being rather than an action:

εἰμι, γίνομαι, ὑπαρῶ and the passive of κάλεω

God is LOVE

ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν

iii] Nominative of Apposition

A substantive in apposition with another substantive in the nominative case, usually also takes the nominative case, except where the writer is sloppy, eg. Revelation.

Elizabeth his WIFE conceived

συνελαβεν Ἐλισαβὲτ ἡ γυναῖχ αὐτοῦ

iv] Nominative of Appellation

A proper noun in the nominative case irrespective of its position in the sentence

He has the name APOLLYON

ὄνομα ἔχει Ἀπολλύων

2. Independent Nominative

A nominative substantive functioning independently in the sentence

i] Nominative Absolute

A nominative substantive functioning in the sentence without any grammatical connections.

eg. Titles, addresses, salutations

ii] Nominative Pendens

An independent substantive (eg. participle) in the nominative case that is linked to the rest of the sentence by a pronoun which takes its case independently of the nominative subject.

Identify by beginning the sentence: "With reference to

THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES, I will make HIM a pillar

ὁ νικῶν ποιήσω αὐτὸν στύλον

iii] Parenthetical Nominative

The subject of an independent clause which serves as a parenthesis in a sentence

The sentence may or may not have a different subject.

There came a man sent from God; his NAME was John

ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης

iv] Exclamations

Virtually an independent nominative

behold my MOTHER and my BROTHERS

ἴδε ἡ μήτηρ μου καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ μου

v] Salutations

GRACE to you, and PEACE from God

χαρὶς ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ

vi] Titles of books

THE REVELATION of John
Ἀποκάλυψις Ἰωαννου

vii] Proverbial expressions

A substantive in the nominative, used in proverbial expressions that have no finite verb.
THE ONE WHO GRASPS the wise in their own craftiness
ὄδρασσομενος τους σοφους εν τη πανουργια αυτων

viii] Used with expressions of time

A nominative used in an expression of time where the accusative might be expected.
I have compassion upon the multitude because already they have remained with me FOR THREE DAYS
σπλαγχνιζομαι επι τον οχλον οτι ηδη ημεραι τρεις προσμενουσιν μοι

3. Notes

Some general rules

i] Granville Sharp's Rule (modified)

Where there are two coordinate singular personal (not proper) nouns, the repetition of the article distinguishes them, while a single introductory article associates them.

ii] Colwell's Rule

Definite predicate nouns that follow the verb usually take the article
Definite predicate nouns that precede the verb usually lack the article

iii] Canon of Apollonius

With two nouns, where one is depending on the other, either both have an article or both lack it. This rule is not always evident in the NT especially when the first noun follows a preposition.

in the Spirit of God
εν τω πνευματι του θεου

iv] Sexist language

Translations of the Gk. text on this site will tend to follow the convention today of replacing the singular "he/she" with the plural "they", etc.

A less than common usage